



Tuesday, May 12, 2009

The Honorable Mark S. Meadows, Committee Chair
Judiciary Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Representative Meadows and fellow Judiciary Committee Members,

This letter is in support of House Bill 4836, the Anti Bias Crime Statute (with sentencing provision HB 4835). The Mount Pleasant Area Diversity Group employs a community-based inclusive approach to foster and promote acceptance and appreciation of diversity. The group is committed to actively challenging the obstacles that inhibit the community's ability to respect, value and be sensitive to diversity. We are a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) and have provided educational services to the Mt. Pleasant community since 1994.

Our entire Board of Trustees stands firm with the many groups and community leaders who support this legislation already.

This legislation is not about protecting any special rights. Indeed, it is about correcting special wrongs committed against people because of their race, color, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression of gender and/or disability status. Thus we need effective tools for prosecutors and judges to address these special wrongs.

Please stand up and do the right thing and speak up for the all of the people and communities that bias-motivated crimes hurt and vote to pass this legislation.

Respectfully,

C. William Westerfield
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